

EDUCATION AND COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE – 22 APRIL 2025

Education and Communities Committee

Tuesday 22 April 2025 at 4pm

Present: Councillors Brennan, Clocherty, Curley, Hellyer, McGuire, McVey, Nelson, Quinn, Reynolds, Robertson and Wilson and Rev D Burt and Rev F Donaldson, Church Representatives, Ms F MacDonald, Parent Representative, and Ms P McEwan, Teacher Representative.

Chair: Councillor Clocherty presided.

In attendance:

Ruth Binks	Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development
Michael Roach	Head of Education
Tony McEwan	Head of Culture, Communities & Educational Resources
Anne Sinclair	Managing Solicitor (for Head of Legal, Democratic, Digital & Customer Services)
Mary McCabe	Finance Manager (Education & Communities)
Iain Cameron	Principal Accountant (Education & Communities)
Yvonne Gallacher	Quality Improvement Manager – Early Years, Education Services
Varri Steele	Education Officer
Diane Sweeney	Senior Committee Officer
Lindsay Carrick	Senior Committee Officer
Emma Peacock	Solicitor
Rhoda Braddick	Corporate Policy, Performance & Communications Manager
PJ Coulter	Corporate Communications Officer (Media Relations)

The meeting was held at the Municipal Buildings, Greenock with Councillors Brennan, Quinn and Reynolds, and Ms MacDonald and Ms McEwan attending remotely.

The following paragraphs are submitted for information only, having been dealt with under the powers delegated to the Committee.

212 Apologies, Substitutions and Declarations of Interest 212

An apology for absence was intimated on behalf of Councillor Armstrong, with Councillor Curley substituting.

Ms MacDonald declared an interest in Agenda Item 3 (Outcome of Statutory Consultation – ASN Provision at Clydeview Academy).

213 Outcome of Statutory Consultation Regarding Future Leadership Model – Newark Nursery School 213

There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development (1) providing an update on the outcome of the statutory consultation process relating to the future leadership model for Newark Nursery School in Port Glasgow, and (2) seeking a decision on the leadership model to be applied to Newark Nursery School.

Decided: that it be agreed that Newark Nursery School will become a standalone Early

Learning Centre under the leadership of a Head of Centre and shall be called Newark Early Learning Centre.

214 Outcome of Statutory Consultation – ASN Provision at Clydeview Academy 214

There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development (1) providing an update on the outcome of the statutory consultation process relating to the introduction of a new Additional Support Needs provision at Clydeview Academy, and (2) seeking a decision on this proposal.

Ms MacDonald declared an interest in this item due to a placing request and left the meeting.

After discussion, Councillor Clocherty moved the recommendations in the report.

As an amendment, Councillor Wilson moved a delay of one year until August 2026 in order to analytically determine the capability of Clydeview Academy to accommodate ASN provision, and if this capability is established then proceed with the recommendations.

Following a roll call vote, 2 Members, Councillors Nelson and Wilson, voted for the amendment, and 12 Members and Representatives, Councillors Brennan, Clocherty, Curley, Hellyer, McGuire, McVey, Quinn, Reynolds and Robertson and Rev. Burt, Rev. Donaldson and Ms McEwan, voted for the motion, which was declared carried.

Decided:

(1) that the Additional Support Needs provision at Clydeview Academy, as detailed at section 9 of the report, be agreed as follows:

(a) that Additional Support Needs provision be introduced to Clydeview Academy from August 2025, this provision offering spaces for up to 10 pupils per year group for young people who have a language and communication profile which requires the support of specialist staff and teaching, with the pupils being supported in their learning within the provision as well as accessing their learning within mainstream classes;

(b) that this provision will provide places for pupils who live within the catchment areas of Clydeview Academy, St Columba's High School and Inverclyde Academy;

(c) that this provision will be led by a principal teacher, along with other teaching staff and support staff;

(d) that this provision will be housed within existing learning space already within the building at Clydeview Academy which has been identified as being fit for purpose; and

(e) that decisions about places for pupils to attend this provision will be made via a referral process made by the pupil's current school to the Additional Support Needs Monitoring Forum chaired by the Principal Educational Psychologist;

(2) that it be noted that (a) Clydeview Academy can accommodate 180 pupils per year group, (b) currently not all of those places are taken up by pupils from within the school's catchment area with the remaining places being allocated through placing requests made to the school, (c) that the school has rooms or places that can be assigned to pupils to attend the new Additional Support Needs provision, which is the same approach as taken for the Stella Maris provision at Notre Dame High School; and

(3) that it be remitted to officers to submit a report to a future meeting detailing staffing costs.

Ms MacDonald returned to the meeting at this juncture.

215 Update Report: Future of Additional Support Needs Specialist Provision 215

There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development providing an update on the report presented to the

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Committee at its meeting on 21 January 2025 on the future requirements of Additional Support Needs provision in Inverclyde from August 2025 onwards.

Decided:

- (1) that the Committee notes the content of the report and progress with planning for Additional Support Needs provision for August 2025, as detailed at section 4 of the report;
- (2) that the Committee notes that further work in relation to an options appraisal is being undertaken in relation to Additional Support Needs provision from August 2026 onwards, as detailed at section 5 of the report; and
- (3) that it be noted that a further report on Additional Support Needs provision from August 2026 will be brought to a future meeting of this Committee.